

ESSB 6444 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-5483.2/10) **1391**

By Representative Pettigrew

ADOPTED 3/05/2010

1 On page 277, after line 32, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 932. RCW 80.36.430 and 2009 c 564 s 960 are each amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (1) The Washington telephone assistance program shall be funded by
5 a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines and by
6 funds from any federal government or other programs for this purpose.
7 Switched access lines are defined in RCW 82.14B.020. The telephone
8 assistance excise tax shall be applied equally to all residential and
9 business access lines not to exceed fourteen cents per month. The
10 department shall submit an approved annual budget for the Washington
11 telephone assistance program to the department of revenue no later
12 than March 1st prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The
13 department of revenue shall then determine the amount of telephone
14 assistance excise tax to be placed on each switched access line and
15 shall inform local exchange companies and the utilities and
16 transportation commission of this amount no later than May 1st. The
17 department of revenue shall determine the amount of telephone
18 assistance excise tax by dividing the total of the program budget
19 funded by the telephone assistance excise tax, as submitted by the
20 department, by the total number of switched access lines in the prior
21 calendar year. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be
22 separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington
23 telephone assistance program." All money collected from the telephone
24 assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance
25 fund administered by the department.

26 (2) Local exchange companies shall bill the fund for their
27 expenses incurred in offering the telephone assistance program,

1 including administrative and program expenses. The department shall
2 disburse the money to the local exchange companies. The department is
3 exempted from having to conclude a contract with local exchange
4 companies in order to effect this reimbursement. The department shall
5 recover its administrative costs from the fund. The department may
6 specify by rule the range and extent of administrative and program
7 expenses that will be reimbursed to local exchange companies.

8 (3) The department shall enter into an agreement with the
9 *department of community, trade, and economic development for an
10 amount not to exceed eight percent of the prior fiscal year's total
11 revenue for the administrative and program expenses of providing
12 community service voice mail services. The community service voice
13 mail service may include toll-free lines in community action agencies
14 through which recipients can access their community service voice
15 mailboxes at no charge.

16 (4) During the 2009-2011 biennium, the department shall enter into
17 an agreement with the ((military department)) WIN 211 organization for
18 ((one million dollars to)) operational support ((the WIN 211
19 program))."

20
21 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal
22 references accordingly. Correct the title.

23

EFFECT: Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to contract directly with WIN 211 for services, rather than passing funds through the Military Department.

FISCAL IMPACT: No change to appropriated levels.

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